

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- Sub A17
5
1. An electronic communications device adapted to update a directory entry upon receipt of an electronic notification.
2. The electronic communications device as recited in claim 1, wherein the electronic notification is associated with an identifier, a category heading, and an altered value.
- 10 3. The electronic communications device as recited in claim 2, wherein said altered value comprises a name, a telephone number, a mailing address or an email address.
4. The electronic communications device as recited in claim 1, wherein said electronic communications device comprises a telephone.
- 15 5. The electronic communications device as recited in claim 1, wherein said electronic communications device comprises a facsimile machine.
6. The electronic communications device as recited in claim 1, wherein said
- 20 electronic communications device comprises a personal digital assistant.
7. The electronic communications device as recited in claim 1, wherein the electronic communications device comprises:
- 25 a processor; and
- a storage medium comprising a data structure, wherein said data structure comprises fields adapted for storage of entry content values and an entry identifier associated with each directory entry, and wherein said category

heading associated with the electronic notification corresponds to one or more headings of said fields.

8. The electronic communications device as recited in claim 7, wherein said entry
5 content values comprise a name, a telephone number, a mailing address or an email address.

9. The electronic communications device as recited in claim 7, wherein the storage
10 medium comprises a directory management program, wherein the directory management program comprises program instructions executable by the processor for receiving said electronic notification.

10. The electronic communications device as recited in claim 9, wherein the directory
15 management program further comprises program instructions executable by the processor for presenting a permission prompt to the user of the electronic communications device.

11. The electronic communications device as recited in claim 10, wherein said
20 presenting comprises displaying on an output mechanism of the electronic communications device.

12. The electronic communications device as recited in claim 10, wherein said
presenting comprises providing audible output.

13. The electronic communications device as recited in claim 10, wherein the
25 directory management program further comprises program instructions executable by the processor for receiving a confirmation indicator to accept the received electronic notification.

14. The electronic communications device as recited in claim 10, wherein the directory management program further comprises program instructions executable by the processor for receiving a reject command to reject the received electronic notification.

5 15. The electronic communications device as recited in claim 14, wherein said receiving comprises receiving a vocal input.

16. The electronic communications device as recited in claim 16, wherein said receiving comprises receiving a dual tone multi-frequency (DTMF) tone.

10

17. The electronic communications device as recited in claim 13, wherein the directory management program comprises program instructions executable by the processor for comparing the entry identifier corresponding to the directory entry with the identifier of the electronic notification.

15

18. The electronic communications device as recited in claim 17, wherein the directory management program comprises program instructions executable by the processor for comparing the headings of said fields corresponding to the data structure of the directory with the category heading of the electronic notification upon matching the entry identifier of the directory entry with the identifier of the electronic notification.

20

19. The electronic communications device as recited in claim 18, wherein the directory management program comprises program instructions executable by the processor for replacing one or more entry content values corresponding to the directory entry with the altered value upon matching one or more headings of the fields with the category heading of the electronic notification.

25

20. A method of updating a directory entry within an electronic communications device upon receipt of an electronic notification, said method comprising:

receiving said electronic notification indicating that at least a portion of the
5 directory entry has changed to an altered value; and

activating an update command.

21. A method for allowing an update of a directory entry within an electronic communications device upon receipt of an electronic notification, said method
10 comprising:

receiving said electronic notification indicating that at least a portion of the
15 directory entry has changed to an altered value;

searching entirety of directory entries to match an identifier of the electronic
notification with a matching entry identifier associated with the directory
entry;

20 matching a field heading associated with the data structure of the directory entry
with a category heading of said electronic notification; and

25 updating one or more entry content values with the altered value, wherein said
entry content values correspond to a field associated with the matching
entry identifier and field heading of the directory entry.

30

22. A storage medium comprising program instructions executable using a processor within an electronic communications device for:

receiving said electronic notification indicating that at least a portion of the directory entry has changed to an altered value;

searching entirety of directory entries to match an identifier of the electronic notification with a matching entry identifier associated with the directory entry; and

matching a field heading associated with the data structure of the directory entry with a category heading of said electronic notification; and

updating one or more entry content values with the altered value, wherein said entry content values correspond to a field associated with the matching entry identifier and field heading of the directory entry.